

REMARKS

Applicant has amended the above-identified application responsive to the Office Action dated March 27, 2002.

In brief, Applicant has amended the Abstract of the Disclosure, as requested on page 2, paragraph 1 of the Examiner's comments, and in order to reduce the word content to under 150 words. It is respectfully requested therefore that the Abstract is in appropriate form.

Applicant has further amended the claims in the application and in order to overcome the prior art references cited by the Examiner. In particular, independent claims 1, 11 and 12 have been amended responsive to the Office Action. The limitations of dependent claim 7, directed to the alternate variant of the hand-held display device being display mounted to the vehicle interior, have been incorporated into amended independent claim 1. Accordingly, claims 1-6 and 8-12 remain pending in the application.

Accordingly, the present invention now contains amended independent claims directed to both the hand held variant as well as the vehicle interior (dashboard) mounted variant and which are submitted to patentably distinguish from the collection of cited prior art patents. Applicant further notes that the Examiner only rejected claims 1-11 in the application, and did not cite any prior art references in a rejection of independent claim 12. Presumably therefore, claim 12 is believed to be allowable and Applicant requests confirmation from the Examiner of this understanding.

The claims have been amended to distinguish from the cited collection of the Earnest, Jr., Morden, Pasker, Dinstbir and Johnston references. Applicant will address each of these references in the order cited by the Examiner. With reference first to Pasker, it teaches a design for a hand-held message board with changeable cards. What Pasker does not teach or disclose is application to a vehicle display device, whether hand held or mounted, and which

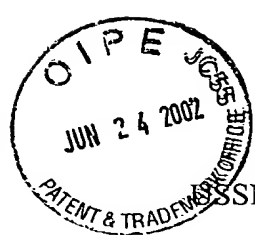
is applicable to decrease the instances of driver frustration and road rage, concurrent with establishing better overall attitudes of drivers when on the road. Applicant further notes that Pasker does not specifically disclose the arrangement of stackable sheets each providing a message on a selected side, nor does it show the display mounted and alternate variant of independent claims 1 and 12 (Fig. 3).

As to the Johnston reference, it teaches a music holder with the specific objective of providing a supporting member which may be interchangeably clamped and rigidly held by a wide variety of sizes and shapes of lyres (clamping devices). This is a significant departure from the inter-auto display device of the present invention, and as again particularly recited in independent claims 1, 11 and 12. Once again, Johnston does not teach or suggest application to a vehicle inter-auto display and communication device.

With further regard to Earnest, Jr., the hand-held traffic signaling device is respectfully submitted to not teach or disclose the application of an inter-auto display device. Nor does Earnest, Jr. teach the features of the support with the handle and interconnecting and substantially planar display portion, as recited in each of independent claims 1, 11 and 12. Rather, each of the panels in Earnest includes a configured and aligning opening 30 which permits the device to be held by the hand of the user.

Morden teaches only the feature of a book ring with a spring hinged joint, this feature by itself being notoriously well known in the art. However, Morden does not teach or suggest application to a hand-held inter-auto display device and in which the binder rings of dependent claim 5 are incorporated into the device of amended independent claim 1.

Finally, the Dinstbir patent discloses a warning device for vehicles in which a flat/planar indicator member includes an inner ply sandwiched between a pair of stiff outer plies. Dinstbir does not teach or suggest the application of a plurality of individual and



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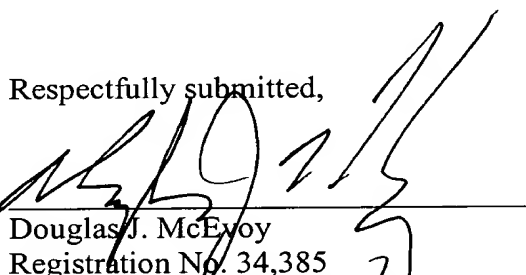
stackable sheets of material, each displaying a selected message on at least one side thereof, this being a recitation of each of independent claims 1, 11 and 12. Nor does Dinstbir teach the provision of the binding rings such as recited in claims 3, 4, and 5 or the spiral binding portions of claim 6.

It is further respectfully submitted that the prior art patent references, in combination, amount to an attempted hindsight reconstruction of the present invention. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the prior art rejections be withdrawn as to claims 1-11 and that claims 1-12 be allowed in view of the claim amendments and arguments set forth above.

Attorney for Applicant may be contacted at (248) 647-6000 with any questions the Examiner may have.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the abstract and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made."

Respectfully submitted,



Douglas J. McEvoy
Registration No. 34,385
Gifford, Krass, Groh, Sprinkle,
Anderson & Citkowski, P.C.
280 N. Old Woodward, Suite 400
Birmingham, MI 48009
(248) 647-6000

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE ABSTRACT

A new abstract has been provided to replace the one originally filed.

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 7 has been canceled.

Claims 1, 11 and 12 have been amended as follows:

- 1 1. (Amended) A hand-held inter-auto display device, comprising:
- 2 a support including a handle portion¹⁴ and an interconnecting and substantially
- 3 planar display portion¹², said display portion having a first surface and a second
- 4 oppositely facing surface defining therebetween a specified thickness;
- 5 a display mount at a specified location within a vehicle and within which may
- 6 be seatingly engaged said handle portion;
- 7 a plurality of individual and stackable¹⁷ sheets of material, each of said sheets
- 8 displaying a selected message¹³ on at least one side thereof; and
- 9 said sheets being pivotally bound¹⁷ to said planar display portion of said support
- 10 so that a selected message, displayed on a first selected sheet located upon said first
- 11 surface, may be rotated to abut against said second oppositely facing surface and to
- 12 reveal an underlying and second selected sheet located upon said first surface and
- 13 displaying a further selected image;
- 14 said display device decreasing the instances of driver frustration and road rage,
- 15 concurrent with establishing better overall attitudes of drivers when on the road.

1 11. (Amended) A hand-held inter-auto display device, comprising:
2 a support including a handle portion¹⁴ and an interconnecting and substantially
3 planar display portion¹², said display portion having a first surface and a second
4 oppositely facing surface defining therebetween a specified thickness;
5 a plurality of individual and stackable sheets¹⁷ of material, each of said sheets
6 displaying a selected message¹³ on at least one side thereof, each of said messages
7 being presented according to a selected content, coloring and lettering style, said
8 plurality of individual and stackable sheets each further comprising a semi-rigid
9 poster-board material; and
10 said sheets being pivotally bound to said planar display portion of said support
11 so that a selected message, displayed on a first selected sheet located upon said first
12 surface, may be rotated to abut against said second oppositely facing surface and to
13 reveal an underlying and second selected sheet located upon said first surface and
14 displaying a further selected message, said [pivotally] pivotal binding further
15 comprising at least one binding ring¹⁶ engaging through said display portion, between
16 said first and second facing surfaces, and proximate an extending edge opposite said
17 handle portion;
18 said display device decreasing the instances of driver frustration and road rage,
19 concurrent with establishing better overall attitudes of drivers when on the road.

1 12. (Amended) An inter-auto display device for use by an occupant of a
2 first vehicle for communicating to occupants of at least one additional [vehicles]
3 vehicle, said display device comprising:

4 a support including a first portion¹⁴ and an interconnecting and¹⁷ substantially
5 planar display portion, said display portion¹⁷ having a first surface and a second
6 oppositely facing surface defining therebetween a specified thickness;

7 a plurality of individual and stackable sheets¹⁷ of material, each of said sheets
8 displaying a selected message¹² on at least one side thereof, each of said messages
9 being presented according to a selected content, coloring and lettering style, said
10 plurality of individual and stackable sheets each further comprising a semi-rigid
11 poster-board material;

12 a display mount located at a desired and exposed position within the first
13 vehicle, said display mount [be] being accessible by the occupant of the first vehicle
14 and viewable by the occupants of the at least one additional vehicle; and

15 said sheets¹⁷ being pivotally bound to said planar display portion of said support
16 so that a selected message, displayed on a first selected sheet located upon said first
17 surface, may be rotated to abut against said second oppositely facing surface and to
18 reveal an underlying and second selected sheet located upon said first surface and
19 displaying a further selected message, said [pivotally] pivotal binding further
20 comprising at least one binding ring¹⁶ engaging through said display portion, between
21 said first and second facing surfaces, and proximate an extending edge opposite said
22 handle portion.